Alumni in the News

Cheryl Camin Murray '98 to serve as DBA President for 2023

The Dallas Bar Association named Cheryl Camin Murray '98 its 114th president. Murray, who is partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, has been on the DBA Board of Directors for many years, and has served on a variety of DBA Committees and Sections. She is a co-founder of the DBA's Public Forum Committee, and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers’ Freedom Run, in addition to having served as DAYL Secretary, Treasurer, and Director. Murray graduated cum laude from the University of Houston Law Center.

Williams ’22 earns third place in national Brown Award for legal writing

Recognized for Excellence in Legal Writing by the Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation, alumna Kirsten Williams ’22 has reshaped common racism and discrimination misperceptions. Williams’ article, “The Impact of Foresight: Reframing Discriminatory Intent to Properly Remedy Environmental Racism,” won third place and $3,000 in the 29th annual Brown Award 2022. The piece explored relationships between minorities, communities of color and the environment and misconceptions of racism due to incorrect expressions.

Rusk ’14 offers bar exam study hints, real estate law insights

Real estate lawyer David Rusk ’14 was named partner at the multinational law firm Holland & Knight LLP effective this January. Rusk, who earned the 3rd highest score on the Texas Bar Exam in 2014, provided law students with a few of his test-taking strategies and how to pave a path to real estate law. Rusk advised students to map out a study schedule, working backward from the date of the exam and counting the number of weeks to study. “Study the way that you did in law school and treat the bar like a 9-5 job because it is a long process,” Rusk said.

Faculty in the News

Professor Thompson interviews member of Exonerated Five

Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson, who was a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney’s office during 1989, the year of the Central Park Jogger case, set down for an interview with Dr. Yusef Salaam, one of the Exonerated Five. Salaam, shared his experience of being wrongfully convicted in the Central Park Jogger Case and ideas for improving the criminal justice system. The presentation was part of the University of Houston’s 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.
“To me it seems less traditional and more aggressive … it falls between the border of trademark use and trademark abuse,” University of Houston assistant law professor Aman Gebru said of the NFL’s approach to protecting the Super Bowl. Gebru was interviewed for the sports publication’s article on “How the Super Bowl tests boundaries, including the Constitution.”

Professor Jim Hawkins discussed the best credit cards for students in a Q&A with WalletHub. Top questions included what are the best attributes of student credit cards, what are best ways for college students to use a credit card, and what are the biggest mistakes made. Professor Emeritus Richard Alderman provided advice on how to find the best secured credit card. Alderman noted secured credit cards often are worth it for people who do not have good credit and want to build up their credit rating. Of course, to obtain a secured credit card you must have sufficient available cash to put up a security deposit.

The 2023 Joseph A. Vail Asylum Law Workshop offered insights and strategies from top immigration law experts on the nuances of this ever-changing landscape, instructing hundreds of attendees and raising thousands of dollars to support the University of Houston Law Center’s Immigration Clinic. More than 500 registrants gathered online and in-person to learn about the judicial role in U.S. immigration courts, best practices for representing asylum seekers including unaccompanied minors, navigating federal court appeals, and obtaining forensic and country conditions experts.

Shearn Smith, a 1951 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 17. He was 95. According to his obituary, Smith became a judge for the Harris County 61st District Court in 1968. Cougar spirited, he was a former president of the University of Houston Alumni Association and frequent performer of the National Anthem at the UH football and basketball games. During World War II, Smith served in the Navy. After the war, Smith was part of a large class of veterans who attended the University of Houston.

The University of Houston Law Center has earned two national rankings in the 2023 Winter issue of preLaw magazine. The Law Center was named as one of the “Most Diverse Law Schools” and as a “Top School for Advocacy/Litigation.” UHLC has now received 47 awards from preLaw since 2018.

2023 UHLC Alumni Awards
Nominations

All nominations are due no later than March 6, 2023.

Alumnus of the Year
In recognition of exceptional and continued achievement and noteworthy contributions to the legal profession by an alumnus.

Law Gala & Auction Award
In recognition of exceptional volunteer service and leadership to the UH Law Gala by an alumnus.

Faculty Distinction Award
In recognition of a member of the Law Center faculty that has distinguished themselves in their field of expertise.

Public/Non-Profit Sector Achievement Award
In recognition of exceptional achievement and legal excellence in public service.

Private Practice Achievement Award
In recognition of exceptional achievement in and legal excellence in private practice.

Corporate Sector Achievement Award
In recognition of exceptional achievement and legal excellence in the corporate and business communities.

Rising Star Award (2012 - 2022 graduates eligible)
In recognition of outstanding achievement and notable commitment to the UH Law Center by a young alumnus.

Honorary Alumnus Award
In recognition of exemplary service and dedication to the Law Center by a lawyer that is not an alumnus.

James M. Roach '82 Law Fund Volunteer Award
To a volunteer alumnus that has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to raising funds for the UH Law Center.

Diversity and Inclusion Award
In recognition of significant commitment of an alumnus to diversity and inclusion by fostering a more diverse and inclusive legal community.

Pro Bono/Community Service & Leadership Award
In recognition of an alumnus that has dedicated substantial service to the community as a volunteer and leader.

Submission Instructions:
For each nominee, please complete and submit the following form online. Additional information to support a nomination may be sent by email to lawalumni@uh.edu. All nominations are due no later than March 6, 2023.

Click here for Nomination Form

Questions? Please contact Hope M. Young in the Office of Law Alumni Relations at hyoung@central.uh.edu or call 713-743-5099.

Upcoming Events

Essays in Honor of Professor Stephen T. Zamora

A Life Between Mexico and the United States
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
6:00 - 8:00 PM CT
In-Person
Foundation Room

Register here
Click here for more information
Yale L. Rosenberg
Memorial Lecture

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
In-person and Virtual

Guest Speaker: Janai Nelson
NAACP Legal and Education Defense Fund
President & Director-Counsel

[Click here to register]
[Click here for more information]

5th Annual Denney L. Wright International Energy Tax Conference
AND
The Houston Business and Tax Law Journal’s 23rd Annual Symposium
Exploring the International Energy Investments Post Pandemic

Friday, March 24, 2023
In-Person
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM CT
Danny M. Sheena Courtroom
CLE Pending

[Register here]
[Click here for more information]

Lone Star Regional Legal Writing Conference

April 14-15, 2023
In-person

[Submit Proposal to Present]
[Click here for more information]

7th Annual North American Environment Energy and Natural Resources Conference

Thursday, April 27, 2023
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM CT
University of Houston Law Center 46th Annual Law Gala & Auction

Friday, May 5th, 2023
6:30 p.m. to midnight
The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston
1600 W Loop S, Houston, Texas 77027
Chairs: Michelle E. Gray ’11 and Buddy Gray

Click here for more information

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